

## 1 Introduction

The Fire Authority has a legal duty to tell you how much of your council tax money is required to provide fire service cover in the county of Berkshire. It must also explain how your money will be spent providing that service.

The Authority has approved a revenue budget for 2017/18 of £33.167 million, an increase of 1.2% over the comparable figure for 2016/17.

The precept for a band D property has increased by 1.99% to £62.49. Government funding to the Authority, has fallen by 10.95% compared to the previous year.

If you would like more information about the Fire Authority's finances, please write to:

Head of Finance, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Newsham Court, Pincents Kiln, Calcot, Reading, RG31 7SD.

or e-mail: [precepting@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:precepting@rbfrs.co.uk).

## 2 Financing Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

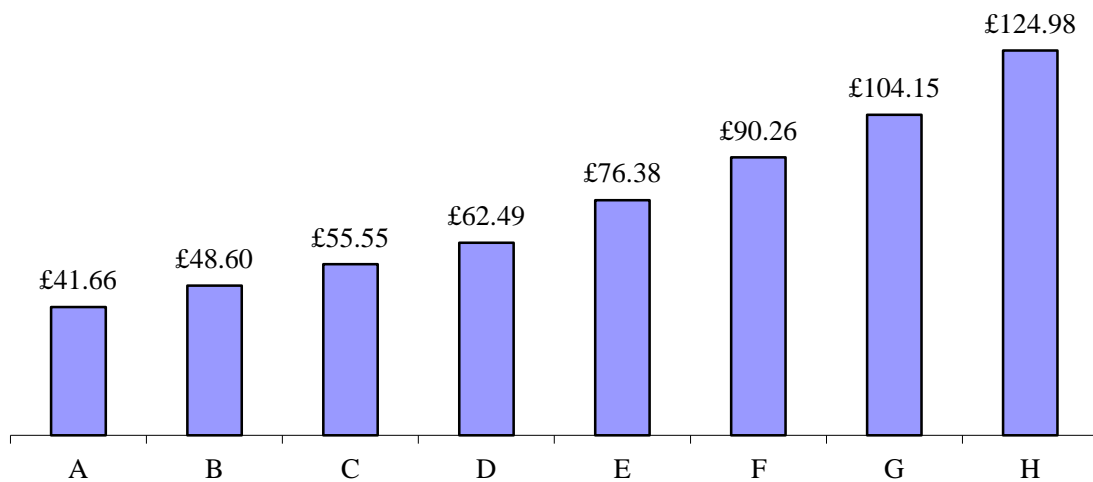
The following table shows how the Authority's net revenue budget of £33.167 million will be financed.

	£ million	£ per head
Gross Revenue Expenditure	35.028	37.79
Gross Revenue Income	-1.861	-2.01
<b>NET BUDGET</b>	<b>33.167</b>	<b>35.78</b>
Less:		
Business Rates	-7.513	-8.10
Government Grants	-4.321	-4.66
Collection Fund Surplus	-0.233	-0.25
<b>COUNCIL TAX</b>	<b>21.100</b>	<b>22.77</b>

### 3 How much Council Tax do we need from you?

Each house or flat is valued in a band, or group of similar homes, and given a label A to H. Each band or group pays a different amount of tax. The annual cost to each household is detailed below.

**Council Tax Bands**



#### 4 How do we spend the money?

It is important not only to achieve the efficient and effective delivery of your fire service, but also that this is demonstrated to you. The following table shows how we spend the money.

	2016/17 (Latest) £ million	2017/18 (Original) £ million
Employees	26.351	26.128
Premises	2.054	2.209
Ill-health retirement costs and injury awards	0.418	0.418
Transport	1.057	1.130
Supplies and Services	3.560	3.795
Capital financing	1.254	1.348
Gross Revenue Expenditure	34.694	35.028
Revenue income	-1.924	-1.861
Net Budget Requirement	32.770	33.167

## 5 How spending has changed

The Authority's 2017/18 budget has seen an overall increase of £0.397 million compared to the budget for 2016/17. The main changes between the two years are set out below:

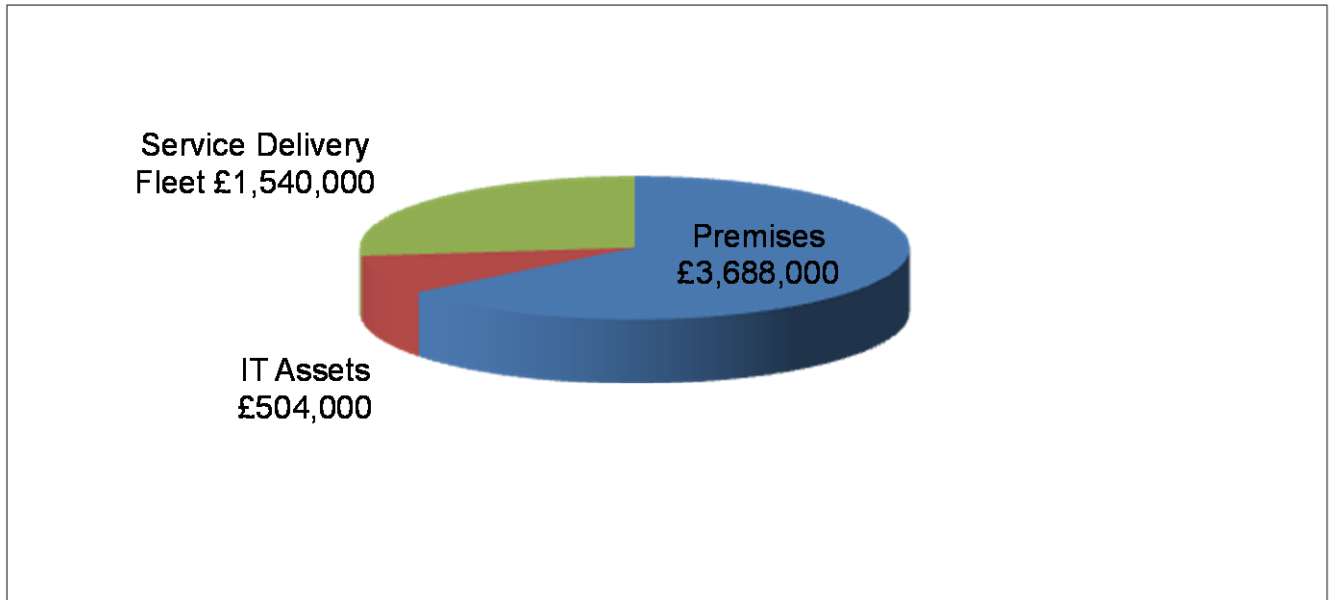
	£ million
Budget 2016/17	32.770
Pay awards, increments increase pension costs	0.391
Apprentice Levy	0.082
Premises Rationalisation	-0.050
Business Rate Revaluation	0.135
Efficiencies from Restructuring	-0.703
Increase in Revenue Provision for Capital Programme	0.094
Service Delivery Bids	0.172
Net reduction in fee income from activities	0.029
Inflation	0.247
Budget 2017/18	33.167

## 6 Investing for the future

The Authority uses some of your money to invest in buildings, equipment and vehicles.

The capital programme for 2017/18 amounts to £5.732million. This will fund long-term improvements in service delivery, including the following:

- the enhancement of our fire stations;
- investing in our IT assets.
- Investing in our service delivery fleet



## **7 Borrowing**

At the end of February 2017 the Authority had total borrowings of £8.842 million from the Public Works Loans Board to help finance capital investment. At 31 March 2017 it is anticipated that due to prudent financial stewardship total borrowings will remain the same at £8.842 million.

## **8 Value for Money Assessment**

The auditor's latest Annual Audit Letter has stated that the Authority has proper arrangements in place to secure financial resilience, economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2016.